



**MARYLAND PAIN INITIATIVE
BOARD MEETING JANUARY 13, 2009**

PRESENT: Mary French, Kathryn Walker, Danelle Buchman, Jayme Halko and June Winkler.

PARTICIPATING BY TELEPHONE: Will Rowe, Beth Murinson

MINUTES: of November 18, 2008 approved as submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: to be submitted

SURVEY SUMMARY: being prepared by Wendy Toler and Karen Kaiser by January 23, 2009.

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS: Larrissa Scruggs and Danelle Buchman were elected to serve on the Board.

COMMITTEES FORMED:

EDUCATION: Kathryn Walker, Natalie Powers, Megan Potter, Lynn Tieu, Beth Murinson, and Mary French.

POLICY: Danelle Buchman, Gail Katz, Micke Brown, Larrissa Scruggs, Will Rowe and Jayme Halko.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT: Kathryn reports that we will be partnering with The Hospice Network of Maryland for a conference in late spring. It will be a CME course on Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain. Future projects would include getting Scott Fishman's book to Doctors in Maryland. Beth Murinson suggests "Pain Control in Primary Care Setting" as a resource for physicians.

POLICY COMMITTEE: Danelle Buchman reports that they are looking for a date to have a pain briefing in Annapolis. Would like it to be around breakfast or lunch. Gail Katz is contacting Del. S. Rosenberg. The tentative speakers are Will Rowe, Gail Katz, Rebecca Kirch, Mary Vargas. February 19th is the first date and 3 other dates are being explored. Will, Larrissa and Jayme got \$1500 from Pfizer, Government Affairs Committee. List of invitees is being prepared and a flyer with a PDF Reminder Notice.

UPDATES FROM WILL ROWE:

1. The Pain Bill is being re-introduced in the House and Senate early in the session.
2. APF is looking to set up a meeting with the Public Health Sub Committee, House Government Operations. The chair is Jim Hubbard and lobbyist for chronic back pain is Eric Galley.
3. REMS (Risk, Evaluation, Mitigation Strategy) is an initiative of the FDA to monitor pain products and really a problem for pharmacists. FDA has been asked to stop and rethink the plan.

4. Pain Care Forum has designed a letter and asked us to be one of the signers as well as participate in looking at alternatives.

FIBROMYALGIA PROJECT: In Maryland there is an issue with coverage for patients with fibromyalgia. Focus is on Coventry Health Care where there are 5 steps to getting approved, and questions about appropriate care. May require letters to the editor. A survey has been developed for pain patients to determine what insurance issues they have, do they have pain and what treatments have they received. It has been distributed in 6 states including Maryland and has gotten 673 responses to date. Will be distribute nationally soon. There is a conference call on January 14, 2009 at noon with the hope of expanding involvement.

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

MAY 12, 2009

JULY 14, 2009

SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

NOVEMBER 10, 2009